

REMARKS

Claims 4, 10, 12, 13, 15, and 17 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 4 and 10 have been amended to change "made of" to --consisting of-- and to more clearly recite that the container is "flat". Support for the amendments can be found, for example, page 8 of the specification and Figure 2.

Entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested.

The rejection of claims 4, 10, 12, 13, 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Wakamatsu et al. (US 4,667,814); (2) claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Wakamatsu; and (3) claims 10, 12 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Wakamatsu in view of Biebuyck et al. should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons.

Claim 4 recites a member for an electroluminescent device comprising a flat container which is made of a porous material and a non-porous material and a removing agent capable of removing a prescribed gaseous component, the removing agent being contained in said container, wherein said container is consists of two flat sheets joined together only at their peripheries, one of said two flat sheets being a porous sheet, and the other being a non-porous sheet; said porous sheet is an air-permeable laminate sheet comprising a porous layer and a reinforcing layer; and said reinforcing layer is nonwoven fabric.

Fig. 1 depicts an embodiment of the claimed member. As can be seen, it depicts a flat container and does not depict a container that is molded or shaped, as can be seen when viewing Fig. 2, which is a is a perspective view of Fig. 1. Fig. 2 shows the presence of the removing agent between two flat sheets - e.g., the dotted lines outlining the presence of the removing agent.

In addition, the specification discloses that the flat container made of two flat sheets is different from the container of Wakamatsu. For example, the present specification discloses how

the container is formed by interposing the removing agent 12 between the flat porous sheet 11 and the flat non-porous sheet 13 as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, and the peripheries of the two sheets 11 and 13 are sealed by, for example, application of an adhesive or a pressure-sensitive adhesive, heat-sealing, mechanical intermeshing, and the like. *See* page 8 of the specification.

In contrast, Wakamatsu discloses a blister ***molded*** cup-like plastic container. Thus, Wakamatsu does not disclose, teach or suggest a flat container consisting of two flat sheets, as claimed.


Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Wakamatsu, alone or in combination with Biebuyck, fails to disclose, teach or suggest every element of independent claim 4, or the claims depending therefrom.

Thus, it is submitted that the present invention is neither anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited art and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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